

NEWS



MAKEOVER: The owners of the Grand are the Salim Group, which has operated it for more than a decade. Picture: File image

Health Care acquires hospitals

HEALTH Care Australia has completed the acquisition of Evolution Healthcare's three Illawarra hospitals in a deal valued at \$53 million.

The acquisition of Shellharbour Private Hospital, South Coast Private and Wollongong Day Surgery boosts Australia's third largest corporate private hospital operator's national portfolio to 2,200 beds across 21 private hospitals.

Shellharbour Private Hospital is a 60 bed medical, surgical, paediatric and rehabilitation hospital, South Coast Private is a 90 bed mental health hospital and Wollongong Day Surgery services the South Coast.

CEO Steve Atkins said Healthe Care was committed to further investment into private health services in the Illawarra. "With Shellharbour Private Hospital, South Coast Private and Wollongong Day Surgery partnering under Healthe Care's ownership, we are focused on ensuring each of these facilities continue to deliver high quality health care. We look forward to working with local management, staff, doctors and external partners..currently involved with these three sites".

'Just too many issues'

BY BRENDAN CRABB

A PLANNED major makeover of Kiama's historic Grand Hotel has been refused by Kiama council.

On Tuesday, Kiama councillors endorsed council staff's decision to refuse the development application.

A DA was submitted last year for the proposal, which has an estimated cost of \$7,558,000.

The proposal involves the demolition of the existing

guest house building and also the construction of a four-storey building containing guest accommodation and two levels of basement parking at 31 Bong Bong Street, as well as additions and refurbishment of the existing Grand Hotel, including the addition of a fourth storey at 49 Manning Street.

According to council's report, reasons for refusal included the proposal breaching height limit; negatively affecting and not conserving

the heritage significance of the Grand; and not providing sufficient car parking spaces.

Kiama Mayor Mark Honey said "there were just too many issues" regarding the proposal, but "council's enthusiastic about that site being redeveloped, but within the parameters that are laid down by the law".

Meanwhile, proceedings have begun in the NSW Land and Environment Court.

"Council requested further information from the

applicant on January 17, 2017 as the submitted plans presented several areas of non-compliance," council's report said. "Council requested that the above matters be addressed within 21 days. On February 7, 2017 the applicant contacted council requesting an extension of two weeks to provide the requested information.

"Council granted this extension of time. Following this correspondence, council officers made numerous at-

tempts to contact the applicant seeking an update on the requested information.

"On March 15 council was notified that the applicant had assumed that the DA had been refused and in accordance with... the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 commenced proceedings in the NSW Land and Environment Court."

The owners of the Grand, the Salim Group, were contacted for comment.

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WEATHER

TODAY



Min: 15°C Max: 23°C

TOMORROW



Min: 16°C Max: 23°C

CONTACTS

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